**Begin with the End in Mind**

ð Content outcomes aligned with national, state, or district standards and requires students to develop, apply, and demonstrate literacy or numeracy skills.

ð Organized around an open ended driving question or problem that inspires higher   
order thinking, encourages focused problem-solving skills, and requires core   
knowledge to answer.

ð Requires students to construct knowledge.

ð Requires students to engage in targeted inquiry, including using prior knowledge,   
gaining in-depth understanding of subject, and mastering core conventions of the   
discipline/field.

ð Addresses issues, problems, or questions faced by people in the world outside of   
school.

ð Requires students to develop 1-3 21st Century skills.

ð Encourages students to reflect on and develop personal strengths.

ð Incorporates activities and tasks that encourage student autonomy.

ð Encourages and honors student ‘voice and choice’.

ð Students have contact with adults outside the classroom.

ð Student work reviewed by a “real” audience.

ð Students do extensive exploration and research, including field-based activities.

ð Involves students and teachers in a wide range of communication, patterns, roles, and   
activities.

ð It is of sufficient duration for students to engage in a complex, problem-focused process of assimilating facts, using skills, contemplating solutions and creating worthwhile products.

ð Involves presentation of student work to an audience beyond the teacher   
classroom.